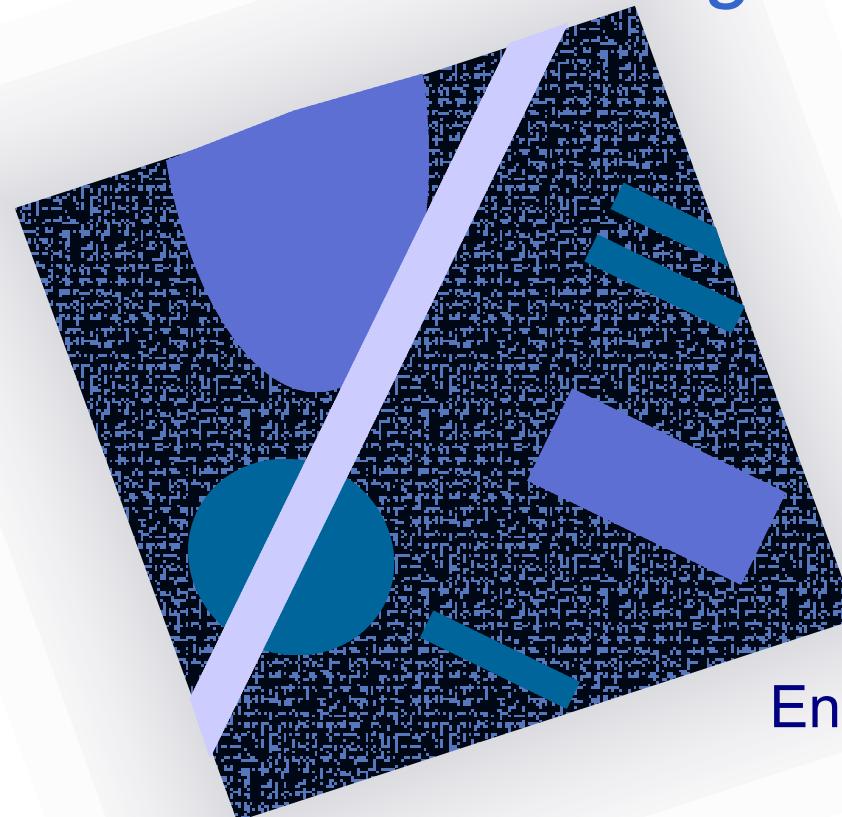


Opening Remarks for Conference: *“Benefits Transfer and Valuation Databases: Are We Heading in the Right Direction?”*



By: Luis G. Leigh, Director
Environmental Economics Branch,
Environment Canada

Washington, D.C., March 21st, 2005

Outline

- Introduction
- What is EVRI?
- What is the EVRI Club?
- Canadian Context / Activity

Introduction

- Welcome on behalf of the EVRI Club.
- This conference helps to launch EVRI in US.
 - A collaboration between EVRI-Club and the US-EPA

What is EVRI?

- Internet Infobase of valuation studies :
<http://www.evri.ca>
- Currently contains 1,315 study summaries or records that can be easily searched. (Demo next session).

Composition of EVRI Records

Category of Asset	%	(Records)
Water	29%	(544)
Animals (birds, mammals or fish)	22%	(424)
Land	19%	(357)
Human (health or capital)	11%	(220)
Air	6%	(95)
Plants (forest, crops)	5%	(157)
Man-Made Environment/ Infrastructure	8%	(120)
Micro-organisms	<1%	(4)
Total	100%	(1921)*

*More than one environmental asset may have been identified for each record

What is the “EVRI Club”?

- Club formed in 2002 to operate EVRI valuation database with UK, France and Canada.
- U.S. “re-joined” Club in 2003 – collaboration with Canada started in 1990’s
- Club open to all interested countries

What is the “EVRI Club”?

Principles

- To maintain and expand EVRI for the benefit of member countries
- To promote use of valuation
- Members contribute resources and expertise
- Policy direction set by members
- Accountability

Canadian Context

- Valuation and BT since mid-1990's to support regulations, legislation and policies.
 - Numerous primary studies: wastewater benefits, valuing natural capital; species at risk
 - AQVM uses benefits transfer to support air quality regulations
 - EVRI project launched to save time & cost of doing original studies
- Government-wide work on valuation:
Transport; Agriculture; Natural Resources

Canadian Context (con't)

- New **Competitiveness and Environmental Sustainability Framework** (CESF)
- Objective of CESF:

“To attain the highest level of environmental quality as a means to enhance the health and well-being of Canadians, preserve our natural environment, and advance our long-term competitiveness”
- environmental sustainability emerging as a new basis for competitiveness
 - Links environment and economy

Canadian context (con't)

- Valuation key role as indicator -- and to integrate environment/economy for CESF policy development
- EVRI Club allows us compare how valuation and benefits transfer applied in other countries e.g., this conference.

- Look forward to the two-day conference
- Provides an excellent opportunity to exchange and learn
 - to improve benefits transfer & valuation database.